

**What is claimed is:**

1. A process for producing a cover for a side airbag, which comprises first producing a polyester web, preconsolidating this web by needling and end-consolidating and fully shrinking the thus preconsolidated web by means of an embossing calender, making the thus consolidated and fully shrunk web up into a cover and providing the cover with a predetermined breaking site to tear open the cover in the event of a collision.
2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the web is preconsolidated mechanically by needling.
3. A process according to claim 2, wherein the needling density is in the range from 10 to 50 stitches/cm<sup>2</sup>.
4. A process according to one or more of claims 1 to 3, wherein the consolidating is effected using an embossing calender having a spot embossing profile.
5. A process according to claim 4, wherein the embossing calender used has a spot embossing area in the range from 6 to 10%.
6. A process according to one of more of claims 1 to 3, wherein the embossing calender used has a rib profile.
7. A process according to claim 6, wherein the embossing calender used has a rib embossing area in the range from 10 to 30%.
8. A process according to at least one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the polyester used is polyethylene terephthalate.

9. A process according to at least one of claims 1 to 8, wherein a polyester spunbond is used.
- 5 10. A process according to at least one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the polyester fibers used have a linear density in the range from 1 to 6 dtex.
- 10 11. A process according to claim 10, wherein the polyester fibers used have a linear density in the range from 1 to 4 dtex.
- 15 12. A process according to at least one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the preconsolidated web is end-consolidated and fully shrunk at 140 to 220°C.
- 20 13. A process according to at least one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the polyester web has a basis weight in the range from 60 to 250 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
- 25 14. A process according to claim 13, wherein the basis weight is in the range from 100 to 120 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
- 30 15. A process according to at least one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the polyester web is from 0.4 to 2 mm in thickness after the preconsolidating, consolidating and shrinking steps.
16. A process according to claim 15, wherein the thickness is in the range from 0.8 to 1.2 mm.
17. A side airbag cover produced by a process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 16.